



# Town of *Westford* Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

May 2015



Jodi Ross,  
Town  
Manager

[jross@westfordma.gov](mailto:jross@westfordma.gov)  
[www.westfordma.gov/tm](http://www.westfordma.gov/tm)  
978-692-5500

Subscribe to Town News



Receive Important Town  
Notices and Information  
[www.westfordma.gov/  
subscriber](http://www.westfordma.gov/subscriber)

Apple Blossom Parade  
Saturday, May 16  
10:00 AM

Memorial Day  
Ceremonies  
Sunday, May 24  
Page 3

Annual Strategic  
Planning Retreat  
Thursday, June 18th  
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
At Kimball Farm



Watch  
Meetings Online  
**westford** CAT  
community access television  
[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

## Dear Westford residents,

Please join me in welcoming all of our town officials elected (and reelected) during the May 5th 2015 Annual Town Election. Thank you to all of the candidates for making the effort to run for office and to all of our residents who came to the polls to vote. Our voters also approved the debt exclusion question for the construction of a new Center Fire Station, so the design for that building will begin. For the full list of election results, please click here: [Election Results](#).

The Board of Selectmen offered congratulations and appreciation to Selectman Jim Sullivan during his last board meeting on April 28, 2015. The Selectmen recognized Jim's 18 years of dedicated service to our town and presented him with a certificate of appreciation. We now welcome newly elected Selectman Mark Kost. Mark has been an active town volunteer, serving on the Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee for the past six years.

Congratulations to Ellen Harde, Town Moderator and lifelong volunteer, for being honored during the Roudenbush Community Center's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on April 30, 2015 as their first annual *Person of the Year*. This special recognition was presented to Ellen for her years of extraordinary community volunteerism, for serving as a co-founder of the Roudenbush Community Center in 1975, and for serving on the Roudenbush Board of Directors for over 20 years.



It is with great pleasure we welcome Jennifer Claro as our new Director of Elder Services. Jennifer holds a Masters in Community Counseling, and a Bachelors degree in Education with a minor in Business from the University of South Alabama. She also has prior experience in counseling, assessment, individual treatment plans for clients, coordinating special events, and non-profit organization. During her recent tenure as the Director of the CoA and Senior Center in Marlboro they constructed a brand new 23,000 sq ft senior center.

The Westford Kiwanis 2015 Annual Apple Blossom Festival will begin on May 13, 2015 and run through May 16, 2015. The parade will be held on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM starting at Main St at Graniteville Rd and traveling to the Abbot School. The Selectmen and I plan to walk in the parade, and attend and participate in the numerous festival events, including raffles, pancake breakfast, fireworks display, person of the year award, Apple Blossom Queen contest, and many more. I hope to see you there. Please visit the Westford Kiwanis website for the full schedule of events: [Apple Blossom Festival](#).

(continued on next page)

[WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV](http://WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV)

Please consider attending our town's annual Memorial Day Ceremonies on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. Terry Stader, Westford's Veteran's Service Agent, has organized a substantial array of events, including the parade through Westford Center. The parade departs at noon from the Roudenbush Community Center and travels to the town Common. A full events guide and parade route is available at the following link: [Memorial Day 2015](#).

Our annual **Strategic Planning Retreat** has been scheduled for June 18th, 2015 from 5:30 pm – 8:30 p.m. at Kimball Farm. The topics to be discussed will include:

**12 North Main Street** – The 12 North Main Street Task Force will describe the current status of the abandoned industrial site, including contamination and structural concerns, applications for grants and other funding, the foreclosure process, the town meeting vote, and encourage discussion of ideas to help establish a vision for future reuse.

**New Center Fire Station/Combined Dispatch/Future Use of Current Fire Station Site** – Provide information on the new Center Fire Station and Combined Dispatch facility. Seek input from residents and board/committee members regarding needs for new replacement facility on current center fire station site.

**Pedestrian Safety Committee** – Discuss sidewalk and other pedestrian safety issues facing our town. Help prioritize sidewalk needs. Discuss snow removal from town sidewalks including necessary equipment and resources needed. Discuss possible town-wide survey for help in gauging resident interest in constructing new sidewalks.

**Town Farm Building and Property** – Discuss newly formed Town Farm Property Task Force who is charged with developing a plan for the buildings and property. Seek resident input to determine the future of the buildings and the site.

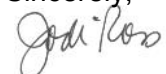
There will also be several “booths” with information ranging from our town building facility maintenance assessment study, library feasibility study, Economic Development Committee, infrastructure repair schedule (roads/dams/bridges), Energy Committee initiatives, Community Preservation Act, Recreation master plan, Agricultural Commission initiatives and perchlorate remediation.

The Board of Selectmen has approved a new committee charge and membership for a Disabilities Commission. The main purpose of this committee is to research local problems for people with disabilities, assist municipal officials and employees in compliance with state and federal laws that affect people with disabilities, coordinate programming from the Massachusetts Office on Disability, make policy recommendations to the town, and provide information and technical assistance to individuals, agencies businesses or organizations in all matters pertaining to disability. For more information or to submit an application to serve on the commission, please visit the following link: [Disabilities Commission](#).

The annual appointment procedure for boards and committees is in process for appointments effective July 1, 2015. In the interest of encouraging our residents to become involved in the operation of our town, and to ensure that we utilize the skills and talents of Westford residents, we are advising residents interested in serving on a board or committee to complete a Citizen Activity Form for consideration. This form, which allows residents to express interest in more than one committee, is available online at: <http://data.westfordma.gov/bc> or by contacting the Town Manager's Office. Not all committees have vacancies at this time, but residents are encouraged to express their interest should an opening become available. If you would like more information on any specific committee, please visit the following link: [Annual Town Report](#). If you have any questions please contact Matt Hanson in the Town Manager's office at 978-692-5501 ext. 1.

Hopefully I will see you at some of our upcoming events.

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross  
Town Manager

## Memorial Day 2015

Westford observes Memorial Day this year on Sunday, May 24th throughout many locations in our town. The day starts out by honoring those veterans who are now deceased in various memorials in the villages. Brief ceremonies will be held 9:00 AM at Freedom Park proceeding to the Forge Village memorials, the Graniteville memorial at 9:45 AM and then at the Bryne Ave. dam at 10:45 AM. Volunteer readers will read off the names of over 1,000 deceased veterans who served with honor starting at 10:45 AM on the Common. A parade will commence from the Roudy and then around the Common at noon with stops at the town center memorials to render honors by veterans and the service organizations that support them followed by representatives from our police and fire departments, WA band, local government dignitaries and the ever popular Westford Firefighters Pipes and Drums. At the common with will be a memorial service in recognition of what Memorial Day is all about.



We are looking for Honor Roll readers, please contact us if you are interested by calling 978-392-1170. More information at [www.westfordma.gov/veterans](http://www.westfordma.gov/veterans)

## Veterans Graves to be Flagged

Prior to Memorial Day, American Legion Post 159 members will be placing American flags on each of the veteran's grave sites in our town's 7 cemeteries.



The joint effort of our town Highway, Parks, Recreation and Cemetery departments will place the American flags on utility poles.

Over the last year, we have made an extensive effort to identify every veteran buried in all of our cemeteries through the use of the Find-A-Grave website. The staff and a group of volunteers from the Westford Veterans Services office, the Westford Museum, the Westford Cemetery department and St. Catherine's Parish, as well as others have taken photos of the markers for each veteran we have been able to identify. In the next phases we plan on adding the GPS coordinates so a visitor would be able to quickly locate a grave site of interest.

This is an ongoing effort of searching through the many records and identifying our Westford veterans, inadvertent omissions may have occurred which will be corrected as they are identified.

Our Town of Westford's Military Burial Index has been updated too, check it out at: <https://data.westfordma.gov/vets>. The Find A Grave links to Westford cemeteries are shown below.

[Fairview Cemetery](#)

[Saint Catherine Cemetery](#)

[Russian Orthodox National Cemetery](#)

[Hillside Cemetery](#)

[Westlawn Cemetery](#)

[Pine Grove Cemetery](#)

[Wright Cemetery](#)



## Council On Aging - Coming Events

### **WOMEN'S BREAKFAST**

**Thursday, May 14th at 8am.**

In Honor of Mother's Day, May's Woman's Breakfast is being generously sponsored by Patti Mason, Mary Alcorn, and Angela Harkness.

We will hear a travel presentation by Deb Kalikow.

Please RSVP at the Front Desk or call 978-692-5523 at least two business days ahead so we can purchase enough food.

May will be the last Woman's Breakfast for the series; I would like to thank all of the volunteers that have helped with the Woman's Breakfast it could not have been done without you. Woman's Breakfast will start again on Thursday, September 10th.



### **GAY NINETIES CELEBRATION**

The Council on Aging is pleased to once again sponsor our annual Gay Nineties Celebration on **Tuesday, May 19th from 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM at the Franco American Club.**

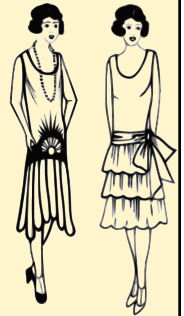
In celebration of Older Americans Month, this event honors those Westford elders who are ninety years of age and older.

The afternoon will include a catered lunch served around 11:30 AM and entertainment.

Advanced registration is necessary, at 978-692-5523 before May 8th.

If you were born in 1925 or earlier, please indicate your birth date when registering so you can be acknowledged. Our honored Westford guests age 90 and over are welcome to bring one guest and they will be seated at your table. Transportation is available.

This is open to all Westford Seniors only. There is no charge for this special event.



### **"BOSTON DUCKS"**

Featuring the same Ducks used in the Victory Parades for the World Champion Boston Red Sox, New England Patriots and Boston Bruins.

**Tuesday, July 14th**, Depart from the Franco at 9 AM on your luxury Silver Fox Coach.

Tour Boston Common, view the Public Gardens. You can take a Swan Boat Ride (on your own). Next you are off to Quincy Market, where you can enjoy lunch (on your own) or a short walk to the famous North End. This afternoon you will take a narrated tour on one of the famous Ducks, where your narrator will point out all the Boston sights. Arrival home at 5PM.

The all inclusive cost, including driver gratuity is \$72. p/p.



To view the complete Council On Aging Newsletter please visit our website at:  
[www.westfordma.gov/coa](http://www.westfordma.gov/coa) and click on [Newsletters](#).

## Agricultural Commission

### “Grown Here in Westford” Photo Contest

Lots of Westford residents are supporting local agriculture and by doing so, are making our community a healthier, more sustainable place to live. The Westford Agricultural Commission is looking for photographers of all skill levels and ages to help us tell their stories in pictures.

The Westford Agricultural Commission is hosting its 1st Annual “Grown Here in Westford” Photo Contest of all things agricultural in town. Submit your digital images portraying people working with the land, as well as those photos that highlight the beauty of Westford’s agricultural bounty, animal and plant life, pollinators and landscapes.

We want to see your prized Victory Garden, kids interacting with animals they’ve never seen up close at the Middlesex County 4-H Fair or at Kimball Farm, farmers tending their crops, families enjoying a day of apple picking, breathtaking shots of butterflies and bees, or even still shots of beautiful, fresh, local produce. The images need not be new, but they must be taken in Westford, Massachusetts. Anything that represents a love and appreciation of local agriculture.

Entries will be judged by popular vote at The First Parish Church’s Strawberries and Arts Festival on June 20. Rain date June 21. Winners will be named in 18+ and Under 18 age categories.

Online submissions must be received by **June 10, 2015** for consideration. Official entries must be also printed, matted and wired (or submitted on an easel) for display. All entrants will be invited to exhibit their work at the Avis Gallery at the Roudenbush Community Center on June 18th.

For complete rules and details, please email [cberthold@westfordma.gov](mailto:cberthold@westfordma.gov).



## J.V. Fletcher Library

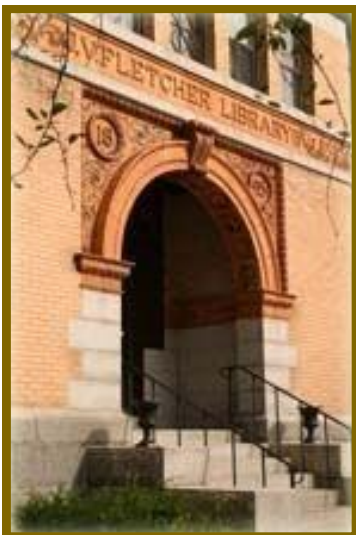
### **New! from OVERDRIVE - our service provider for free, downloadable eContent**

**“Overdrive Listen:”** a new eAudiobook option coming from Overdrive! “Overdrive Listen” allows Fletcher Library cardholders to listen to free eAudiobooks through a web browser, there are no downloads or software required to do this. Similar to Overdrive Read, “Overdrive Listen” lets you listen to an eAudiobook –through compatible web browsers (Chrome, Safari or Internet Explorer 11.) After May, 19 simply go to the Overdrive website via the “Download audio books eBooks” icon on the Library’s homepage or your Overdrive App, choose any eAudiobook that you want to listen to, click on the “Borrow” button and then click on the “Listen (in your browser)” button and start listening. If the eAudiobook is unavailable place a hold on it, and when it becomes available you can either download it to your smart device or choose Overdrive Listen.

In addition to this latest service (which does require wireless access since you are listening to a digital audiobook LIVE through your browser) in the last 12 months Overdrive has greatly expanded its service offerings – as a result Westford cardholders have enjoyed and explored: an improved, Overdrive app; a brand new Collection featuring eBooks in Chinese; a new feature that patrons can activate to have requested eTitles automatically downloaded to your smart device once they are available and a start-up collection of online streaming films.

If you have never used Overdrive and would like to learn how download free eReading, please drop-in to one of our one-on-one *Device Advice* tutorials on Mondays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Or stop by the the Information Services/Reference Desk anytime for instructions (please bring your smart tablet or phone with you when requesting instruction.)

- Cheers.



[WWW.WESTFORDLIBRARY.ORG](http://WWW.WESTFORDLIBRARY.ORG)



[WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV](http://WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV)

## **Parks and Recreation**

### **PARKS**

#### **Work at Community Gardens**

Parks Operations Supervisor Jon Revis and Crew Leader Robert Upperman met with members of the Community Gardens Committee to go over the proposed one acre site for the gardens. Parks has mowed the area removing the cover growth, and turned the soil in preparation for the gardening season. This is a new venture for the Town with the gardens located at the Day Conservation Property off of Graniteville Road. The Community Gardens information can be found on the Town's website under the Agricultural Commission

#### **VFW Field Lighting Restored**

A single pole in the eight pole lighting system came down causing the loss of lights and delaying the start of adult softball. Through the efforts of many individuals a replacement pole was secured, replacement fixtures, and repaired electrical box all put in place. The lights are now working and the softball season is in full swing.

### **RECREATION**

#### **Recreation Master Plan – Public Meetings**

The Parks and Recreation Commission with Master Plan Consultant Jeff King of Ballard and King have planned two upcoming input meeting. The purpose of the meetings is to seek public input on the recreation areas, facilities, and programs. The sessions are scheduled for June 10 at Stony Brook Middle School Cafeteria and June 16 at Westford Academy Upper Cafeteria from 7:30-9PM. Light refreshments will be served. An on-line survey is being planned for additional opportunity for public input.

#### **Westford-Littleton Crew – Success in Spring Regatta Season**

WLC had a strong showing at the Lowell Invitational Crew Regatta, an event with approximately 500 entries. WLC rowed competitively and ended with a 1st place finish in the Men's 3rd Varsity 4+, a 3rd place finish in the Men's 2nd Varsity 4+, and a 3rd place finish in the Women's Lightweight 4+.

Team members for each boat are Men's 3<sup>rd</sup> Varsity 4+ Coxswain – Caroline Provost, Seats 4-Wes Baker, 3- Peter Trainor, 2-Alex Nikopoulos, 1-Leo Sanchez; Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> Varsity 4+ Coxswain Taiga Kambara, Seats 4-Matthew Lin, 3-Nick Ormsby, 2-Daniel Measer, 1-Allan Desrochers; Women's Lightweight 4+ Coxswain-Jess Pazienza, Seats 4-McKayla Wood, 3-Shannon Forty, 2-Emma Wood, 1-katie Stokes.

Head Coach David Cormier and Assistant Head Coach Michael-Anne Sevick are pleased with the team's progress and success in the regattas. The team will be competing in the upcoming Northeast Youth Championships (May 15-16) and the Mass. Public Schools Rowing Association Championships (May 24) both regattas taking place in Lowell. For more information on the Crew team go to [www.westford-littletoncerw.org](http://www.westford-littletoncerw.org)

#### **Summer Programs**

Planning for summer activities check out the all the program offerings and register online at [www.westfordrec.com](http://www.westfordrec.com).



## Water Department

### **2014 Consumer Confidence Report Available**

The Water Department provides our customers with a direct link to an electronic copy of the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) on the Water Department website. **Visiting the following website address will take you directly to the current CCR:**

<http://www.westfordma.gov/ccr>

The CCR contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water, and is well worth the time to review. Since electronic delivery has become our primary method for providing the annual CCR it's important to note that:

- **The Westford Water Department no longer mails out paper copies of the CCR unless requested.**
- **If you have previously requested a paper copy then one will automatically be sent to you each year (there is no need to make additional requests).**
- **Please call at 978-399-2457 (or send email to [mwarren@westfordma.gov](mailto:mwarren@westfordma.gov)) if you would like a paper copy delivered to your home or business.**

In addition, paper copies of the CCR will still be available at the Water Department, Town Hall and other municipal and community buildings.

### **Westford Community Rain Barrels Program Ends May 28<sup>th</sup>**

The Westford Water Department is currently partnering with the Great American Rain Barrel Company in Hyde Park, MA to offer rain barrels to residents as part of a community wide water conservation program.

Great American Rain Barrel is offering Westford residents rain barrels for \$79 which is 35% off the retail price of \$119. The barrels come in three colors; Forest Green, Earth Brown or Nantucket Gray. To take advantage of this community program discount please visit [www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com](http://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com) look for "shop local programs" in the left side bar, and find "Westford", email [info@tgarb.com](mailto:info@tgarb.com) or call 1-800-251-2352.



Barrels will be available for pick up on Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm- 6:00pm at The Westford Water Department 60 Forge Village Road. The deadline for ordering is, May 28<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm.



## Health Department News

### 10 Things Everyone Should Know About Ticks



#### 10. Ticks crawl up

Ticks don't jump, fly, or drop from trees onto your head and back. If you find one attached there, it most likely latched onto your foot or leg and crawled up over your entire body. Ticks are "programmed" to try and attach around your head or ears. On their normal hosts, ticks also usually crawl up; they want to blood feed around the head, neck, and ears of their host, where the skin is thinner and hosts have more trouble grooming.



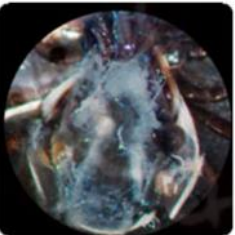
#### 9. All ticks (including deer ticks) come in small, medium and large sizes

Ticks hatch from eggs and develop through three active (and blood-feeding) stages: **larvae** (small-the size of sand grains); **nymphs** (medium-the size of poppy seeds); **adults** (large-the size of apple seeds). If you see them bigger, they're probably partially-full or full of blood.



#### 8. Ticks can be active even in the winter

That's right! Adult stage deer ticks become active every year after the first frost. They're not killed by freezing temperatures, and while other ticks enter a feeding diapause as day-lengths get shorter, deer ticks will be active any winter day that the ground is not snow-covered or frozen. This surprises people, especially during a January thaw or early spring day. Remember this fact and hopefully you'll never be caught off-guard.



#### 7. Ticks carry disease-causing microbes

Tick-transmitted infections are more common these days than in past decades. With explosive increases in deer populations, extending even into semi-urban areas in the eastern and western U.S., the trend is for increasing abundance and geographic spread of deer ticks and Lone Star ticks; and scientists are finding an ever-increasing list of disease-causing microbes transmitted by these ticks: Lyme disease bacteria, Babesia protozoa, Anaplasma, Ehrlichia, and other rickettsia, even encephalitis-causing viruses, and possibly Bartonella bacteria. Back in the day, tick bites were more of an annoyance but now a bite is much more likely to make you sick.



#### 6. Only deer ticks transmit Lyme disease bacteria

The only way to get Lyme disease is by being bitten by a deer tick or one of its "cousins" found around the world. Deer ticks also are known as blacklegged ticks in the U.S., sheep ticks in Europe, or Taiga ticks in Asia. Dog ticks, Lone star ticks and other types of ticks just don't seem to be able to transmit Lyme disease. While that's good news, it makes saving any tick that you find biting more important so you can identify it. Doing so may save a lot of unnecessary doctor visits and treatments.

## Health Department News (continued)

### 5. For most tick-borne diseases, you have at least 24 hours to find and remove a feeding tick before it transmits an infection



Even a quick daily tick check at bath or shower time can be helpful in finding and removing attached ticks before they can transmit an infection. You'll probably want to check even more carefully if you know you've likely been exposed. Many of the disease-causing microbes transmitted by ticks need a "re-activation" period in the tick once it begins to feed. The germs eventually make their way into the tick's salivary glands and the tick spits them into you while feeding. Some infections, especially viruses, move into the tick salivary glands faster than others. Lyme disease bacteria take at least 24 hours to invade the tick's saliva.

### 4. Deer tick nymphs look like a poppy seed on your skin



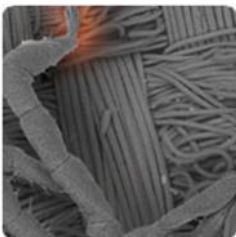
And with about 1 out of 4 nymphal deer ticks carrying the Lyme disease spirochete and other nasty germs in the northeastern, mid-Atlantic, and upper mid-western U.S., it's important to know what you're really looking for. They're easy to miss, their bites are generally painless, and they have a habit of climbing up (under clothing) and biting in hard-to-see places.

### 3. The easiest and safest way to remove a tick is with a pointy tweezer



Think of a tick as a little germ-filled balloon. Squeeze it too hard on its back end, and all the germs get pushed to the front end, which by the way, is attached to you by the tick's straw-like mouthpart. Using really pointy tweezers, it's possible to grab even the poppy-seed sized nymphs right down next to the skin. The next step is to simply pull the tick out like a splinter. Don't worry if the mouthpart stays in your skin as long as you've got the rest of the tick by its head. Other tick removal methods, like a hot match, Vaseline, dish soap and cotton, or various little key-like devices don't work as consistently as pointy tweezers on all types of ticks. Remember to save the tick and try to identify it (see # 6).

### 2. Clothing with built-in tick repellent is best for preventing tick bites



An easy way to avoid tick bites and disease is to wear clothing (shoes, socks, shorts or pants, and shirt) with permethrin tick repellent built-in. This strategy can be especially effective for protecting children. Dressing kids in tick repellent clothes everyday is a safe and easy way to keep ticks from biting and transmitting disease. Commercially-treated tick repellent clothes last through at least **70 washes**, while using kits or sprays to treat your current outdoor wardrobe can last through 6 washes. Tick repellent on clothing, not skin is something everyone needs to know about to stay safe outdoors.

### 1. Tick bites and tick-borne diseases are completely preventable



There's really only one way you get a tick-transmitted disease and that's from a tick bite. Reducing tick abundance in your yard where you spend a lot of time, wearing tick repellent clothing everyday, treating pets every month with tick repellent spot-on products, getting into a habit of doing a quick body scan for attached poppy-seed sized or larger ticks, and pulling ticks off quickly and safely are all great actions for preventing tick bites. These days, ticks are more than just an annoyance. One bite can make you sick, even change your life! **Remember these 10 things and you'll stay safer.**

## Health Department News (continued)

### 5 Things To Do For Tick Prevention



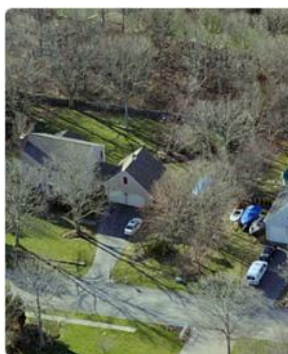
#### Perimeter Sprays and Granules

Perimeter spray treatments are eco-friendly by limiting the amount of pesticide being applied, and targeting the areas where people most frequently come into contact with deer ticks. The chemicals used today for tick control are much less toxic than in the past, and are used in very low concentrations. Additionally, Bifenthrin and permethrin do not leach through soil; these chemicals are degraded by soil microorganisms within the top 4 cm of the soil surface. Note: Pyrethroid products should not be applied around fish-containing ponds or streams.



#### Mouse-Targeted Devices

When larval blacklegged ticks hatch from eggs, they generally are pathogen-free. Ticks become infected with disease-causing pathogens when they feed on reservoir animals. Most studies support the notion that white-footed mice (*Peromyscus leucopus*) are the main reservoir host for Lyme disease spirochetes, *Babesia* protozoa, and *Anaplasma* bacteria; in most settings, **mice are the primary culprits for producing infected ticks**. These mice are common and often quite abundant in rural, suburban, and semi-urban settings across much of the eastern United States.



#### Eliminate Tick Habitat

Deer ticks are not out in the middle of your lawn, they live where yards border wooded areas, ornamental plantings and gardens, or anywhere it is shaded and there are leaves with high humidity. By raking leaves, trimming shrubs and low branches you can make certain areas where ticks cannot survive. Pay special attention to frequented border areas, woodpiles, stonewalls and sheds. Creating borders of wood chips stone or any other landscaping material helps to serve as a reminder between tick-safe and Tick-danger zones.



#### Do NOT Attract Wildlife

Ticks are brought to your yard by deer and become infected mainly by feeding on mice. Keep deer out by planting undesirable plants, installing deer fencing or applying deer repellents. Mice like to live in stonewalls, around sheds, woodpiles or any enclosed area they can get into. Clean up brush, keep stonewalls clear of leaves, move woodpiles away from daily activity. Birdfeeders also attract deer and rodents that may drop ticks off right where you are standing.

Source: University of Rhode Island, non-profit TickEncounter® Resource Center. <http://tickencounter.org/ticksmart>



## Health Department News (continued)



## Health Fair held on May 2nd was a Great Success!

Joining forces this year with the Westford Truck Festival, the Health and Safety Day brought in over 1,500 people. Families participated and learned about their health from over 40 vendors. Special thanks to all who participated !



## Recycling Commission

### Spring Recycling Update



Spring is finally here – a time for new beginnings and new habits, and a perfect time to think about improving your recycling routine.



Is it time to upgrade your recycling bin to a 64-gallon wheeled recycling toter? They are available to buy as an option for Westford residents. Send a check for \$45 (will increase to \$50 on July 1) to the Westford Town Hall, 55 Main St., payable to "Westford Recycling Commission."

You may turn any barrel into a recycling container with a "RECYCLING" sticker, available for free from the Town Clerk's office.

Have you thought about composting your kitchen vegetable scraps? It's a way to lighten your trash load, and when the compost is ready you can use it in your garden. Earth Machine composters are available for \$45 by calling 978-692-6986.



If you are spring cleaning and need to discard furniture, carpeting, and other items too large to fit in a trash barrel for pickup at the curb, click on the Quick Link button: Bulk Items & Policy at [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling). You will find information on where to purchase a bulk item sticker. On February 1, the cost per bulk item sticker was reduced from \$10 to \$5.

One last tip – remember, if you are planting flowers and vegetables that come in plastic pots, look for the recycling triangle symbol on the pots to see if they are recyclable.

For information on these suggestions and more, visit [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling), or our Facebook page: [Westford Recycling Commission](https://www.facebook.com/WestfordRecyclingCommission)

Happy spring!

